# KERNODLE

July 20, 2008

Dr. Thomas J. Pulliam, Chair Long-Term and Behavioral Health Committee State Health Coordinating Council DFS Medical Facilities Planning Section 2714 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

Dear Dr. Pulliam:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell's special needs petition to make five additional hospice inpatient beds available in Alamance County.

Kernodle Clinic is a multi-specialty medical group practice established almost 60 years ago with four offices in the Alamance County area with more than 60 providers on staff. As such, we are very familiar with Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell, the work they do in the community and their commitment to providing the highest quality hospice care possible for the patients and families they serve.

Hospice & Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell has demonstrated its mission to the community as well as its experience in providing high quality hospice care through its operation of the county's only freestanding hospice facility for 14 years. In 2007, the Hospice Home operated its inpatient beds at well over 90% percent occupancy. Our patients have experienced significant waiting periods to be admitted. In addition, the growth in hospice care in Alamance County in just the last two years demonstrates the increased need for inpatient hospice beds in our community. I encourage you to make these additional beds available to our community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bilson, Administrator

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Medical Facilities
Planning Section

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John B. Walker III, MD, FACP
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Jeffrey D. Sparks, MD
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NEUROLOGY
Peter R. H. Clarke, PhD, MD
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